GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3364
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
RED RAIN IN KERALA
ANANT GANGARAM GEETE;ANANTRAO GUDHE;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the blood coloured rain in Kerala ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any scientific organisations/institutes are working on the said incident;

(d) if so, whether the scientists have got any breakthrough in these tests; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the occurrence of coloured rain in Kerala.

(b) Reports have appeared in the press of coloured rain (mainly reddish and sometimes brown or green) falling in various parts of Palakkad, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts. These have been very localised events and have occurred during the period of July and August of 2001, having a peak intensity during the last week of July.

(c) The Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thuruvikkal, Thiruvananthapuram, has commenced investigations into the matter with the collaboration of the Tropical Botanical Garden & Research Institute, Palode, Thiruvananthapuram. India Meteorological Department has also initiated a study on the possible link with a volcanic eruption which took place in the Philipines around that time.

(d) & (e) The Centre for Earth Science Studies has recently issued a report on their findings. This report states that the colouration was due to the presence of biological organisms, such as lichen forming algal spores, in large quantities in the rain water. The organisms are of local origin. They have also stated that the colouration is not due to meteoritic, volcanic or desert dust or any dissolved gases or pollutants in the rain samples. The results are not conclusive.